

55th REUNION

of the

**Army and Navy Legion of Valor of the
United States of America, Inc.**

Two Addresses

**By Major General Edward Martin
GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA**

PHILADELPHIA, NOVEMBER 10-12, 1945



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Radio Address of Major General Edward Martin,
Governor of Pennsylvania, at Memorial Services of
the Army and Navy Legion of Valor, at Valley Forge,
Pennsylvania, Sunday Afternoon, November 11, 1945,
at 2:30 o'clock.

Commander, Comrades and Fellow-Americans:

This is a proud day for Pennsylvania. The appearance on our soil of the Army and Navy Legion of Valor is an honor to our historic Commonwealth. Our ten million people welcome you and thank you as an organization and as individuals for your example of patriotism, for your services to the Nation, and for the contribution you have made to the American way of life.

No more fitting place in the world could be chosen for these ceremonies than this beautiful, serene and historic shrine here at Valley Forge. It will, forever, be hallowed ground for Americans.

Washington's tired, footsore, poorly clothed and half-starved Army arrived here on December 19, 1777. Brandywine had been fought and lost. The brilliant attack at Germantown had failed. The victories at Trenton, Princeton and Saratoga were half-forgotten. It was a dark and discouraging time. Cold weather, bad management and fear made the short march of twenty

miles the most difficult and painful ever undertaken by the Continental forces. There were no tents or baggage. Through four days of snow, driving sleet and bitter cold the troops huddled around their roadside fires.

General Washington's Army numbered 11,098 men. It was a little Army, but it had many outstanding officers and men. Some of the greatest men in our history suffered the cold and hunger of that dark and desperate winter here in these hills and little valleys. They were courageous men—men of "incomparable patience and fidelity."

These Generals were here at Valley Forge: Washington, the Commander-in-Chief, and Major Generals Baron de Kalb, Green, Marquis de Lafayette, Harry Lee, Mifflin, Baron von Steuben, Sullivan and Stirling; Brigadier Generals Armstrong, Count Louis L. Duportale, Glover, Huntingdon, Knox, Learned, McIntosh, Maxwell, Muhlenberg, Patterson, Poor, Scott, Smallwood, Varnum, Wayne, Weedon and Woodford.

Then, as now, the American Army was a cross section of our country. Many of the men of Valley Forge rose to later fame and greatness.

Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, was Aide to General Washington; so was Colonel Trumbull, a famous historical painter.

John Marshall, the great Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, served in the Virginia Infantry.

James Madison, the fourth President, also served in the Infantry of the Old Dominion.

James Monroe, the fifth President, was on the staff of General Lord Stirling.

Aaron Burr, Jefferson's first Vice-President; George Clinton, Jefferson's second Vice-President; Joseph Hiester, later Governor of Pennsylvania, and Henry Dearbörn, Secretary of War under Jefferson and Commander of the Army at the beginning of the War of 1812, were among the men of Valley Forge.

At one time less than 5,000 men were fit for duty. Men moved about like ragged ghosts. There was little food, clothing or equipment, yet they continued their training under the masterful leadership and discipline of von Steuben. When spring came they were a well organized fighting machine.

They had learned to obey and to suffer as men, soldiers and patriots, for they were fighting for their own ideals of political freedom. When they marched away they left in the graves of Valley Forge one-third of their comrades who had made the supreme sacrifice. There has never been a finer record of devotion to duty.

We honor them as an example to us in later wars. They had learned to survive and fight through hardship and hunger, for they were animated by the cause of liberty.

Washington was the master spirit of the Revolution. His faith in God was the source of his optimism. Americans should never forget how Washington prayed here at Valley Forge; and the story of that prayer will help us all to a greater faith.

The lessons of Valley Forge are well known to veterans, and particularly to those who have earned our highest decorations for valor in action. We should not forget these lessons in these days of peace, for they will help us in the critical and uncertain future:

1. An army will be a brave army and it will master the tactics and strategy of war when fighting for a great cause.

2. An army must be humble, faithful, patriotic and God-fearing. It must not be ruthless and arrogant.

3. Courage, intelligently led, with loyalty to a purpose, can overcome any obstacle and gain its objective.

4. Men obtain things by hard work, and there is no easy way to greatness.

No American army ever suffered more, exhibited greater courage, or showed more humility than the Continentals at Valley Forge. They had learned to suffer, obey and die as soldiers and patriots. Their memories live in honored glory. They were an example to their country and to the world.

The pattern of their devotion has come down through the generations of America. It inspired you men to earn the great honors you have received.

American fighting men have always been brave, intelligent, humble and obedient. These traits have won us victories in every war we have fought.

From Valley Forge, all the long way through Yorktown, New Orleans, the March to Mexico, Gettysburg, Manila Bay, the Argonne, the South Pacific, North Africa, the hills of Italy, the beachheads of France, the plains of Normandy, the jungles of Asia, the islands of the Pacific, Hurtgen Forest and the Rhineland, runs the red thread of our wars. We have fought on every great land mass of the world. It is a brilliant record, untarnished by arrogance or tyranny.

We are passing now through a critical period. We have destroyed the fighting forces of our enemies. We are praying for permanent peace, but to attain this peace means hard and intelligent work. If we are to preserve that hard won peace, we

must in patience and understanding teach our ideals to others and we must live those ideals here in America. We must willingly obey our own laws as an example to other people and to other nations.

In this future and uncertain world we must keep an armed force strong enough to preserve our own safety against the aggressor and the ungodly. The nation unwilling to protect itself invites its own destruction.

We must not forget as we did after World War I, which cost us so much in blood and sacrifice.

We want a peaceful world but not at the expense of a free world. To protect and maintain that free world we must not tolerate those who would destroy our plan of government.

Today let us humbly remember our comrades who have answered the Last Great Roll Call. The greatest honor we can do them is to preserve the American ideals for which they fought. Your organization can do much to guide our ship of state through the rough seas of world selfishness and international greed.

We are proud of the Legion. Again we welcome you to Pennsylvania.



Address of Major General Edward Martin, Governor of Pennsylvania at the Dinner of the Army and Navy Legion of Valor in the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Monday Evening, November 12, 1945.

Mr. Toastmaster, Comrades and Fellow-Americans:

The Army and Navy Legion of Valor is the most distinguished patriotic organization in the world and it has an important part and a great responsibility in this critical period in our national history.

Certain facts about American actions in World War II are now clear. This war demonstrated the independence, courage, dependability, humility, "know how" and decency of the average American soldier and citizen.

As a nation we are slow to wrath. As a people of peace, with a distaste for discipline and a dislike for the arts of war, we have defeated the strongest military powers in all history.

Our fighting men accepted leadership and discipline because their intelligence told them this would make a stronger fighting team. Having lived in freedom they quickly grasped new responsibilities and performed in a manner far superior to men of countries living under dictatorship and regimentation.

This was equally true in our industrial field which produced the ships, the tanks, the food, the planes, the trucks and all the vast equipment required by modern armed forces.

Back of the machine shops, shipyards, foundries, textile plants and assembly lines were the men on the farms, in the mines and the quarries, working in the same loyal and independent spirit, growing foodstuffs and producing raw materials.

We found that spirit along the tremendous network of transportation lines, through the whole national distribution system and in all those services that maintain the nation in both peace and war. It was the spirit which, in every war, has carried us to victory.

Because of that spirit of free enterprise, in which a man works where, how and when at the job of his choice, we created in the shortest time in military history the most powerful navy and the greatest army of all time. That spirit of independence did more than produce the tools of war. It delivered them to all parts of the world, where they were needed, and when they were needed by the fighting forces.

Because of the freedoms we enjoy we are the greatest and most powerful people of recorded history. Those freedoms were not given to us. We fought for them, prayed for them, worked for them. They came as the result of concentrated action. They were made a written plan, found in our Constitution. That document is the greatest state paper mankind has ever written. Therefore, every precept of the Constitution, every principle, must be maintained at all cost, because in it lies our great strength.

In weighing the position and the strength of our Nation, let us not forget that every kind of government—limited monarchies and parliamentary, communistic and socialistic states—tried to stop the aggressor nations. Only our free and constitutional

republic could stop them. We furnished the equipment and gave the leadership and the men and women to bring victory.

Our founding fathers believed in and worked under the philosophy that freedom must be considered before security. For generations our people have courageously held to that principle.

Hard work made us a great nation. Americans have never been afraid of work, regardless of the job. They believe in the nobility and dignity of work.

As Americans we must take part in government, for strange doctrines are coming into this country. Class feeling, sectional hatred, deficit financing and other political heresies unknown to the great Americans of the past are being taught. The diseased philosophies of the decaying civilizations of the Old World are being spread. We believe in freedom of speech but this country is for men and women who believe in America.

A great organization like yours must be a leader in all things American. It should speak out against un-American actions, for every man of you knows America and you have sacrificed for America.

Here in Free America We the People are the government. We are entitled to know everything about our government.

We have a right to know our military commitments for the policing of occupied countries.

We have a right to know the exact financial commitments made to other countries, what is the security for these loans, when they will be repaid and how our money will be used.

We have a right to know our plans for defense. Science is changing the face of war and the face of peace. One atomic

bomb is an instrument of destruction equal to 20,000 tons of TNT. That is more death-packed devastation than 2,000 great B-29 bombers can carry.

That implement in the hands of godless men and men of hate could destroy civilization and drive the survivors of mankind into caves. We are entitled to know how its use can be protected and the purposes for which it can be used. We do not dare turn it over to treacherous countries.

We want peace but above everything else we want a free America and a strong America. We can have it if we will take part in government and put men in public office who have the courage to stand up for their principles. America is for men and women who believe in America. The unbelievers should go to a country that practices the doctrines they preach.

This has been a long war. It started when the Japanese went into Manchuria and when Mussolini cowardly attacked Ethiopia. It continued when we shipped oil and scrap iron to aid Japan in its unholy war against China. We watched Germany in its wild conquest of magnificent old countries. Italy, Germany and Japan ignored our protests.

We must remember that the peace we now have is a peace of force and fear. Germany, by force, was brought to its knees. Japan, with an army of 5,000,000 intact, surrendered in stark fear; but if ever given the chance Japan will strike again.

Nazi philosophy still lives, and the Japanese still dream of controlling all Asia and the South Pacific. We will never have peace with such countries in places of power.

Peace must be based upon justice. Remember that justice is an inward principle, and not an outward force. We may talk about a New World Order, but before it can bring about per-

manent peace there must be a spiritual desire to live in the spirit of brotherhood. Until that time comes, armies and navies are necessary and the ideals of America must be preserved and guarded.

Again we are proud to welcome you and your great organization to Pennsylvania, because you believe in and practice the great ideals proclaimed by our forefathers in Independence Hall nearly 170 years ago. These ideals are the basis of right living, among both men and nations.

